



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Sadler or Robert.Sadler@noaa.gov
(727) 570-5326; FAX (727) 570-5490
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

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NOAA FISHERIES REQUESTS GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER VESSEL CAPTAIN INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA REFERENDUM

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Southeast Region, announces the collection of additional information on captains that fished on vessels with red snapper endorsements during the 1993-1996 fishing seasons in the Gulf of Mexico. These data are needed so that those captains can vote in the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) referendum procedures to be implemented under Section 407(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Magnuson-Stevens Act provides that on or after October 1, 2000, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council may prepare and submit a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation for the red snapper fishery that creates an IFQ program or that authorizes the consolidation of licenses, permits, or endorsements that result in different trip limits for vessels in the same class. These actions can only take place if the preparation of such plan, amendment, or regulation is approved in a referendum, and only if the submission of such plan, amendment, or regulation is approved in a subsequent referendum. Only a person who held an annual vessel permit with a red snapper (2,000-pound trip limit) endorsement for such permit on September 1, 1996 (or any person to whom such permit with such endorsement was transferred after such date) and vessel captains who harvested red snapper in a commercial fishery using such endorsement in each red snapper fishing season occurring between January 1, 1993, and September 1, 1996, may vote in the referendums.

NOAA Fisheries has sufficient data needed to contact persons who held an annual vessel permit with a red snapper endorsement for such permit on September 1, 1996 (or any person to whom such permit with such endorsement was transferred after such date). However, NOAA Fisheries does not have information concerning the vessel captains who harvested red snapper in a commercial fishery using such endorsement in each specified fishing season. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries is providing a 20-day period (ending August 18, 2003) for submittal of detailed information regarding vessel captains who harvested red snapper using a red snapper endorsement in the January 1, 1993, to September 1, 1996, fishing seasons. **Please send the requested captain information, including vessel name, vessel owner name, captain name, and captain address, to Robert Sadler, Permits Team, NOAA Fisheries, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702, postmarked or hand-delivered no later than August 18, 2003. Captain information postmarked or hand-delivered after August 18, 2003, will not be considered under the first referendum.**

To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.